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EDITORIAL

When Silence Is Best

The ill-fated Cuban invasion by counter-revolutionaries will haunt the Kennedy Administration, as the young President attempts to formulate a sensible policy to combat the inroads of international communism in the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. Kennedy is to be admired for accepting full responsibility for the failure of the counter-revolutionaries to secure a beachhead on the Caribbean island. The President obviously doesn't want his associates to engage in an interminable round of "passing the buck." This is as it should be. Yet, a serious study of why the invasion failed certainly is in order.

Those critics who advocate a congressional investigation of the Central Intelligence Agency, however, should reconsider their demand. Such a probe would be imprudent at any time. We can't afford to kick CIA around in Congress.

The nature of this vital security agency's operation never should become common knowledge. To bare CIA's strategy in the houses of Congress not only would provide the Soviet Union with valuable information, but also would offer an unlimited source of ammunition for unfavorable propaganda to the Kremlin ideologists.

Americans are prone to carp on mistakes. Already there has been too much criticism of CIA for the U2 overflight last year. Considered objectively, shouldn't the agency be commended for the many successful U2 probes of enemy territory which preceded the humiliating fiasco? On the credit side of the ledger, CIA's accomplishments far outshine its failures.

If any investigation of CIA is to be made, let President Kennedy conduct such an inquiry in concert with top aides. If it is true that CIA planned, coordinated and directed the counter-revolutionary operations that ended in dismal defeat on the southern Cuba beachhead, an examination of the strategy employed is warranted. If a shakeup of CIA personnel is in order, this is the responsibility of the President and knowledgeable men who are cognizant of the agency's over-all function.

This editorial also appeared
in the following newspaper :

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The United States has suffered enough humiliation in recent years. A congressional battle over CIA would be unfortunate. It would accomplish nothing more than to assist Moscow in its vicious campaign of anti-Americanism. Let CIA's mistakes be thoroughly evaluated. But in the process of examination, this important agency must not be crippled by a fruitless session of angry words in Congress.